

My name is Mark DeAngelis. I am the president of the State Marshal Local of Council 4 AFSCME. We strongly support House Bill 5554, AN ACT CONCERNING THE DUTIES OF STATE MARSHALS.

House Bill 5554 allows state marshals access to criminal records so they may safely perform their service duties. It also prevents improper service of legal documents that are only to be served by a properly licensed and insured state marshal. State marshals must regularly serve capias and other court summonses to people accused of domestic violence and other crimes. Yet, there is no means for state marshals to know the danger level of who they are serving. Our members are often unarmed and alone. Our members have been assaulted. Three years ago a state marshal was shot while serving a dead beat dad warrant. One state marshal arrested one of the state's top ten fugitives on a dead beat dad warrant without knowing the seriousness of the man's other crimes. Allowing state marshals access to information from the state police data base will make our members safer and thereby cut down on any state cost due to assaults upon them.

Another section of this bill creates a penalty for someone serving process that should only be served by a state marshal. When service is made by someone other than a state marshal, court documents can be dismissed. Unfortunately, such illegal service is happening more frequently in our state. Such improper service could cause a case to be thrown out of court. This could adversely affect our judicial system and cause serious financial burden and injury to the plaintiff.

Thank you for your consideration and if I can provide any additional information, please let me know.